

REMARKS

OBJECTIONS PRESENTED ON PAGE 2 OF THE OFFICE ACTION

The title of the invention is objected to because the Examiner contends that it is not descriptive. Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees, the title of the application is herein amended as shown above. The amendment to the title does not add new matter to this application.

The abstract of the invention is objected to because the Examiner contends that it should be revised to indicate the method claims. Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees, the abstract of the application is herein amended as shown above. The amendment to the abstract does not add new matter to this application.

35 USC §112

Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees given that the term “substrate” in claims 25 and 26 clearly refer back to the “substrate layer” in claim 21.

In addition, page 3 of the specification clearly states: “Substrates and substrate layers 10, **used herein interchangeably**, contemplated herein may comprise any desirable substantially solid material.” (emphasis added)

However, in order to expedite this matter, the Applicant herein amends claim 25 to include the term “layer” after “substrate”.

35 USC §102

NURSE (US 5,263,111)

Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Nurse. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 21 of the present invention recites the following:

“21. A method for producing an electronic component, comprising:
providing a substrate layer;
providing a solid, substantially planar optical wave-guide; and
laminating the solid, substantially planar optical wave-guide onto
the substrate layer.”

Claim 21 and the specification sections that support claim 21 state that the optical waveguide should be solid and substantially planar when laminated to the substrate or substrate layer. Although a first reading of Nurse may appear to anticipate claim 21, it becomes clear on a closer reading that Nurse, in fact, does not anticipate the present claim 21 and related dependent claims.

Nurse teaches methods of forming waveguides in situ by providing a cladding material and providing a liquid or semi-liquid material that is laid down onto the cladding, cured and then etched, formed and manipulated to become the waveguide. The Examiner is quick to point out that Nurse teaches a “solid, planar, passive optical wave-guide 22 (see Figs 1-24, which show wave-guide 22) laminated onto the substrate layer 12”, but Nurse clearly does not teach the method of claim 21, as the Examiner states. Since the present claim 21 is a method claim and not an apparatus claim, and since Nurse does not contemplate or teach a solid, planar waveguide that is itself laminated to a substrate or substrate layer, but instead is formed in situ, then Nurse can’t possibly anticipate the

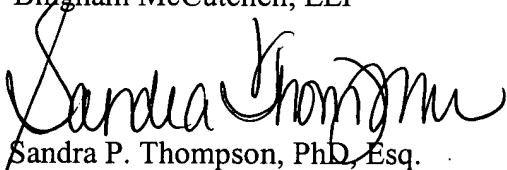
method claim 21.

In addition, Nurse does not anticipate claims 22-27 of the present application by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 21.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 21-27 are currently pending in this application, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all of the claims in light of the arguments presented and allow all current and pending claims.

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We claim:

21. (Added) A method for producing an electronic component, comprising:
providing a substrate layer;
providing a solid, substantially planar optical wave-guide; and
laminating the solid, substantially planar optical wave-guide onto the substrate layer.
22. (Added) The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of a laminating material or a cladding material is coupled to the wave-guide.
23. (Added) The method of claim 22, wherein at least one of an additional layer is coupled to the laminating material or the cladding material.
24. (Added) The method of claim 21, wherein providing the optical wave-guide comprises etching or molding a silicon-based material to produce the wave-guide.
25. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the substrate layer comprises at least two layers of materials.
26. (Added) The method of claim 25, wherein the at least two materials comprises silica wafers, dielectric materials, adhesive materials, resins, metals, metal alloys, and composite materials.
27. (Added) The method of claim 21, wherein the wave-guide is a silicon-based material.